

Message Text

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R 021750Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 102865

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

PFOR, TU, US, CY

TAGS: PFOR, TU, US, CY

SUBJECT: US-TURKISH RELATIONS: CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS

1. TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL CALLED ON THE SECRETARY APRIL 30 TO CONVEY TURKISH PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL'S HOPE THAT DEMIREL AND THE PRESIDENT CAN MEET BILATERALLY IN BRUSSELS DURING NATO SUMMIT, AND TO GET THE SECRETARY'S ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES ON RENEWAL OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY. ESENBEL ALSO ASKED ABOUT THE SECRETARY'S PLANS FOR VISITING ANKARA FOR CENTO MINISTERIAL, AND FOR THE SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON FIRMNESS OF US COMMITMENTS IN POST-VIETNAM ERA. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN WAS ALSO PRESENT.

2. THE SECRETARY TOLD ESENBEL THAT USG CERTAINLY AGREES TO MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND DEMIREL AT BRUSSELS.

3. REGARDING MILITARY SUPPLY, ESENBEL COVERED FAMILIAR GROUND, EMPHASIZING THAT IT IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO GOT THAT
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US ALLY WOULD IMPOSE ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY. HE NOTED THAT DEMIREL GOVERNMENT, LIKE ITS PREDECESSOR, HAS TRIED TO HOLD IN CHECK DEMANDS FROM TURKISH PUBLIC AND PRESS THAT GOT TAKE

PROMPT RETALIATORY ACTION. HE SAID THAT GOT CONSIDERS EARLY RESTORATION OF ASSISTANCE ESSENTIAL, HOWEVER. HE INDICATED THAT DEMIREL TOLD HIM IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO MAKE PROGRESS IN CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL AID RESTORED.

4. THE SECRETARY SAID WE CONTINUE TO WORK ENERGETICALLY FOR AID RESTORATION BUT THAT IT WILL TAKE MORE TIME. HE NOTED DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WILL TAKE SOUNDINGS WITH SENATE LEADERSHIP OVER NEXT FEW DAYS TO ASSESS PROSPECTS FOR EARLY SENATE VOTE. HE SAID WE COULD GIVE ESENBEL BETTER ESTIMATE OF LIKELY TIMETABLE AFTER THOSE SOUNDINGS AND URGED ESENBEL TO LOBBY ACTIVELY ON CAPITOL HILL FOR AID RESUMPTION. THE SECRETARY EXPLAINED, IN TERMS SIMILAR TO THOSE HE USED IN ANKARA IN MARCH, THAT US ADMINISTRATION FULLY RECOGNIZES THAT AID SUSPENSION IS NOT IN US INTEREST AND IS POTENTIALLY DAMAGING TO FABRIC OF US-TURKISH RELATIONS. HENCE, OUR EFFORTS WITH THE CONGRESS HAVE NOT SLACKENED. WHILE DISAVOWING ANY LINKAGE BETWEEN MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS, THE SECRETARY ASKED FOR ESENBEL'S PERSONAL ASSESSMENT WHETHER IF AID RESTORED, TURKS WOULD IN FACT MOVE FORWARD IN NEGOTIATIONS. ESENBEL SAID HE HAD IMPRESSION FROM HIS TALKS WITH DEMIREL THAT AID RESTORATION WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR GOT TO BE FLEXIBLE.

5. ESENBEL NOTED THAT GOT IS EAGER TO HAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SPECIFICS OF SECRETARY'S TRAVEL TO ANKARA FOR CENTO MINISTERIAL. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAS A VERY BUSY SCHEDULE IN MAY, HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO ANKARA VISIT AND WILL TRY TO PROVIDE ESENBEL TRAVEL DETAILS SHORTLY.

6. ESENBEL SAID ANKARA WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON HOW US VIEWS ITS COMMITMENTS IN POST-VIETNAM ERA. THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT VIETNAM HAS NOT CHANGED US VIEW TOWARD ITS COMMITMENTS TO FRIENDS AND ALLIES. THOSE COMMITMENTS WILL BE FIRMLY MAINTAINED. US WILL REMAIN A RELIABLE FRIEND, INDEED AN EVEN MORE RELIABLE FRIEND THAN IN THE PAST. VIETNAM WAS AN ABERRATION. WE INTEND TO GO FORWARD AND TO RALLY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BEHIND A STRONGER
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FOREIGN POLICY. THE OUTCOME IN VIETNAM IS TRAGIC, TO BE SURE, BUT IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH US COMMITMENTS ELSEWHERE. IN REPLY TO ESENBEL COMMENT THAT SOME IN TURKEY QUESTION WHETHER THERE IS CONNECTION BETWEEN US DISENGAGEMENT IN VIETNAM AND SUSPENSION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY, SECRETARY SAID THESE ARE OBVIOUSLY DISCRETE ISSUES. AID SUSPENSION AROSE FROM UNUSUAL CONFIGURATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH OBTAINED IN US LAST FALL. KISSINGER

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